

Flood waters begin to recede

8,000 still without power due to last week's ice storm

CHARLESTON (AP) — Rivers and streams were starting to return to their banks Monday, as brief streams of sunshine peeked through clouds over West Virginia.

"The situation is improving in much of the state," said Mark Rigsby, spokesman for the state Office of Emergency Services. Flood waters appeared to be going down in some places, he said.

The Potomac River crested Monday at its flood stage of 15 feet near Shepherdstown, said Darrell Pen-

■ Related stories on Pages 1A and 6A

well, director of Emergency Services in Jefferson County. The Shenandoah River crested at 13.3 feet, about a foot above its flood stage, causing minor flooding, he said.

"Kinda quiet," Penwell said. "Just pulling out idiots that want to drive through the water."

Officials along the Ohio River reported only moderate flooding. The river crested slightly above flood stage Monday morning at Point Pleasant, where a week earlier as many as 22,000 residents lost power from a winter ice storm.

"Hopefully, we're over the worst of it," said a Mason County 911 dispatcher, who didn't want to give her name.

About 3,000 people across West Virginia remained without



W.Va. 3 near Alderson is covered with rising water Sunday from the Greenbrier River. Rivers and streams were starting to return to their banks Monday. About 3,000 people across West Virginia remained without power Monday due to last week's winter storm.

STEVE BRIGHTWELL/THE REGISTER-HERALD

longer to reach.

Power has yet to be brought back to 1,558 Allegheny Power customers, mostly in Jackson, Roane and Calhoun counties. All but a few should have service back by Monday evening, company spokeswoman Sonya Miller said.

About 50 Charleston homes were flooded along two streets

Sunday, forcing the evacuation of about 20 people, said Mark Wolford, the city's emergency services director.

Charleston Fire Chief Grant Gunnoe said his department had been assisting residents throughout Monday with cleanups. But he said it would probably be another day before anyone returned home.



In this view from Route 60, one can see the amount of water that surrounded the Caldwell Pentecostal Holiness Church following rains this weekend which caused flooding in some areas of Greenbrier County. *Debbie Dunbar photo*



Water spilling over from Anthony's Creek in Neola covered Route 92 making the roadway, which sits just beyond the fence in this picture, impassable. *Lynn McKinney photo*



High levels of water can be seen rushing under the bridge in Alderson in this photograph. The water ultimately crested there at 3.2 feet above flood stage early Sunday morning. *Debbie Dunbar photo*

Flooding Closes Roads

By Leslie Hollandsworth

Although not as extensive as anticipated, flooding over the weekend in Greenbrier County covered several roads, making them impassable, and got into the basements of some structures.

Rudy Holbrook, the county's director of emergency management, said the river crested in Alderson at 17.2 feet around 4 AM Sunday. He said 14 feet is considered flood stage for the town.

According to Holbrook, no measurements are currently available for other areas which are prone to flooding, such as Ronceverte and Renick.

He noted calculations will have to be made to determine some water levels because the gauges at Ronceverte and Caldwell have fallen into disrepair and no longer give accurate readings.

Holbrook reported that one house in Caldwell was surrounded by water and experienced flooding in the basement. The Pentecostal Church in that same area also had water in its basement.

Four houses in Alderson got water in their basements, Holbrook said, pointing out it mostly came from nearby streams rather than the river.

He also reported no homes on River Road in Ronceverte were damaged, but said the road had to be closed due to the height of the water.

Travel through Greenbrier County over the weekend was difficult because of the closure of several roads. In fact, some people were left stranded away from their homes when water blocked alternative routes.

In addition to the tunnel at Caldwell, which is usually one of the first areas to become impassable when the water rises, Holbrook said parts of Harts Run, Route 92 and Route 219 were covered.

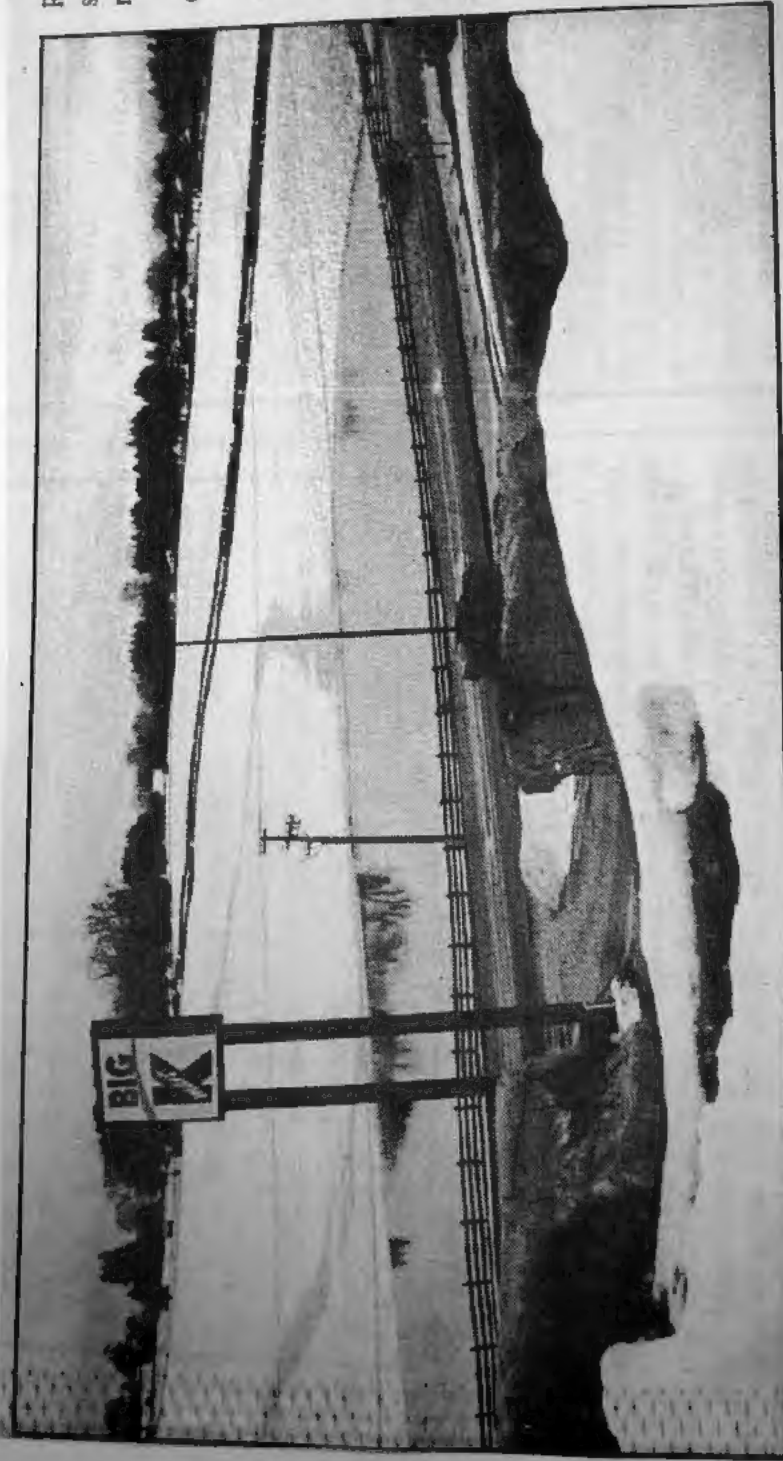
He noted a six-foot section of U.S. 219 north of Renick was washed out due to a mudslide, and said traffic was being rerouted Sunday.

According to Holbrook, Division of Highways employees were made aware of the situation and are working to remedy it.

He said volunteers with the county's emergency management agency labored throughout the weekend assessing damages and fielding phone calls.

He expressed gratitude to individuals from the St. James Episcopal Church and Wal-Mart, who provided food for the staffers.

Holbrook noted the volunteers were assisted this past week by members of the National Church.



Folks in Fairlea usually have little to worry about beyond a wet basement or a loss of electrical service when flooding hits the Greenbrier Valley, but this past weekend's ice melt and heavy rainfall turned a relatively small sinkhole at Tuscawillia Farm into a temporary pond. The water in the roadside impoundment threatened to run over the ditchline and into U.S. Route 219 in front of the southern entrance to the Greenbrier Valley Mall. *Debbie Dunbar photo*

Col. Donald Beickel and Capt. Roy Ramey, along with 12 enlisted soldiers and their vehicles, provided reconnaissance throughout the county.

"They reported on conditions we couldn't see," Holbrook commented.

"They did very good work. They were very conscientious," he added. "We were very happy to have them."

Holbrook said the guardsmen arrived on Tuesday, February 18, and were packing up to leave today.

Noting that numerous military personnel have been shipped overseas, Holbrook said he was grateful guardsmen were sent to the Greenbrier Valley to work with his staff.

"We were definitely lucky to get as many as we did," he stated.

Holbrook also pointed out the county was fortunate not to have had any more water than it did.

"I think we really got lucky with this one," he remarked. "There were very few places that got water."

He also noted there were no flood-related injuries or deaths, to his knowledge.

Flood Devastates Greenbrier Valley

By Tim Alvey

Thirty inches of fresh snow blankets the ground by midnight on Sunday, January 7.

Twelve additional inches of snow falls four days later and temperatures so cold, nothing can melt in the morning between major snowstorms.

With 42 inches of snow on the ground in Greenbrier County and significantly more in the mountains to the north, local emergency workers feverishly hope for a slow, steady melt over the course of several days.

Instead, an unreasonable warm spell coupled with a night of rain dissolves the mass of snow, funneling the moisture into streams and rivers and unleashing the devastating floodwaters on the valley's communities.

The Greenbrier River crested in Marlinton at 3 p.m. on Friday, January 19, at 20, more than a foot higher than the record reported during the flood of 1983.

More than 12 hours later, the river crested in Alderson at 25, slightly higher than the '83 crest.

Parallels to the flood of '85 are inevitable. Causing millions of dollars in property damage and 47 deaths, the '85 flood was what is termed the "100-year flood"—meaning a flood of that

magnitude should occur only once every century.

Barely ten years later, however, Greenbrier Valley residents find themselves digging mud out of their homes and businesses, once more, tallying their losses and making an increasingly tough decision on whether to rebuild yet again or simply abandon property the river seems determined to claim.

A woman in Pocahontas County put it best when she said, "At first I was relieved that this one didn't seem to take as much of people's possessions as the '85 flood did. But now, I'm just angry. Why wasn't something done after that flood to prevent this from happening again? Why weren't we protected from having to go through this again?"

According to figures compiled by the Greenbrier County Office of Emergency Services, the property losses this year could be at least as high as they were in 1985.

Those estimates show Ronceverte and Alderson suffering the highest number of businesses with water damage, while many communities, including those two, saw the water sweep through a substantial number of homes.

Ronceverte's estimated total is 32 businesses and 152 homes in the watershed.

In Alderson, 30 businesses, 250 houses and one church were damaged to some extent. At least 80 Alderson residents were evacuated to shelters, while many others stayed with relatives or friends.

Four Caldwell businesses were damaged in the flood, as well as 65 houses and one church.

In Rupert, the toll was eight businesses, 122 houses and one church in that community; some 41 people were evacuated into shelters.

One business in Rainelle reported water damage, but data from the Lilly Park subdivision was unavailable to OES staff at this time, according to Rudy Holbrook, the executive director of the Greenbrier County agency.

He said the Lilly Park area contains numerous homes, and he is certain there was flood damage in that section of the town.

Holbrook said no information on damage totals is yet available from the Rensselaer area.

Holbrook was reluctant to put a dollar value on the damage, saying he would now pass the information along to the state OES in Charleston, where

"they will put a figure on it," rather than sit back and wait for the government to help in the rebuilding effort, local residents with insurance should look to their insurers as the first line of defense, Holbrook advised.

"People with insurance should get their insurance companies on board as quickly as possible," Holbrook said. This haste is necessary because of the magnitude of the flooding along the Ohio River, he explained.

"I believe the state may have to divert the National Guard to the Ohio River area," Holbrook warned. "That

Continued on Page 3



Ronceverte City Council member Tom Morgan and Chief of Police Bill Rose measure the high water mark on the front of Ronceverte's City Hall at 82 inches. All the front windows and doors were broken, and ventilation blinds and assorted paper pokes through the broken window. (J. C. Brinsdale photo)



This picture was taken in Alderson along Riverview Avenue looking towards the bridge to the river. The bridge was under about two feet of water. The mailbox near the center of the picture gives a good indication of how high the water along the river already was. (C. Termini photo)

1996 flood set record for lower watershed

By NERISSA YOUNG
REGISTER-HERALD REPORTER

The flood of 1996 began quietly in January as snowflakes carpeted the Pocahontas County mountains. It ended noisily in the crash of washed-away homes as they swirled down the debris-strewn Greenbrier River.

The good news was no human lives were lost. The bad news was the worst flood on record for the southern end of the watershed — Alderson to Hinton. Four feet of melting snow followed by freezing temperatures left residents digging through ice and frozen mud for their belongings.

Residents along the river's 168 miles thought they were safe this time. The flood of 1985 forced some to higher ground, but it wasn't high enough. Damage estimates topped \$66 million, and neighbors argued again the merits of a dam on the largest free-flowing river east of the Mississippi. Some people were still paying debts from the 1985 flood.

As they cleaned up for the second time in 13 years, they wondered what had happened to their river —



NATURE'S FORCE: The aftermath of the winter 1996 flood in Alderson.

er valleys provide the best place for house lots, business locations and farmland. The towns of Marlinton, Rencoville and Alderson sprang up because of their desirable topography.

As the mayor of Marlinton told one environmentalist at a public meeting in Lewisburg, town leaders couldn't stop erosion or some intangible change in the Greenbrier's ecology, they knew they could not go back to the Huck Finn days.

Where could they go? Residents didn't want to give

up their land, their towns and their history.

The federal government had promised Marlinton a dam in the 1970s. The project was authorized, but never appropriated, and the authorization was eventually withdrawn.

A clarion call for a dam from officials in Pocahontas, Greenbrier, Summers and Monroe counties brought the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers back to update its

study. They reported a dam was not cost-efficient and would not provide blanket protection for the watershed. Average annual damages from flooding are \$7 million on the Greenbrier, and one-third of those would still occur with a mainstem dam north of Marlinton, the corps concluded.

A \$110 mainstem dam with a reservoir was replaced with an \$88.5 million proposal to construct levees and floodwalls and evacuate people from the floodplain. The hitch with the second proposal was its requirement of a local cost share that had to come from the state or affected counties.

Meanwhile, the Federal Emergency Management Agency began offering federal money through its hazard mitigation grant program for counties that could identify and voluntarily evacuate residents from the flood zone. The Summers County Commission hired a permit officer to enforce the floodplain and identify property buyouts. Pocahontas, Greenbrier and Monroe commissioners and city councils scrambled to file applications for their share of the money.

Meanwhile, river residents do what they have always done — watch and wait.

Click on the respective county stage area to see current conditions.

www.afws.net/data/rv

'Finally, there was no place to go but the attic'

By Bev Davis
FEATURES EDITOR

After weeks of unseasonably dry weather, parts of eastern and southern West Virginia were swept into mass devastation by floods in November 1985.

Among the hardest hit areas in southern West Virginia were Greenbrier and Pocahontas counties, where houses were washed off their foundations, bridges and roads were wiped out and families clung to tree tops, attic walls and house roofs for dear life.

High water claimed three

family was trapped for more than 12 hours with only one bottle of milk for the baby.

"Steve and I sat together with the baby on my lap. The girls were laying on boards covered with blankets. We heard the porch break off, then we just started floating. We floated over something. I think it was the satellite dish. We floated about a quarter of a mile before we hit a box trailer. That's all that saved us from going further," Jane said.

The following morning, rescuers saw movement

through a vent near the roof. "We took out the vent and enlarged the hole to bring them out. It was all I could do to keep from crying when we brought out that 2-week-old baby," one of the volunteers said.

Summers County Hospital became an island unto itself when flooded waters swirled across the bridges and roads into and around the city. Some employees had to remain in the hospital for more than 24 hours.

More than 10,000 West Virginians Power customers

in Greenbrier, Monroe and Pocahontas counties were out of electricity and many without telephone service for several days.

Heavy rains caused numerous accidents in Fayette and Raleigh counties. Gov. Arch Moore estimated flood damage in West Virginia to be about \$200 million. Following a helicopter tour of flood-ravaged areas, Moore said highway damage in one area alone was \$17 million and that replacement of 20 destroyed bridges could run as high as \$30 million.



emergency equipment. In Marlinton, more than 800 people were evacuated from their homes.

Marlinton couple Steve and Jane Jones and their children, Madena, 6, Allison, 2, and Stephanie, 2 weeks old, literally rode out the storm in the attic of their two-story home.

"When we realized we couldn't get out, we kept climbing higher in the house. Finally, there was no place to go but the attic," they told reporters following a dramatic rescue. Steve had torn apart bunk beds to



RAMPAGING RIVER: The 1985 flood washed out a bridge over the Greenbrier River at Pence Springs.

make ladders so the family could reach the attic through a hole he made in the bedroom ceiling. The

115,000 visits during the 1984-85 season. The resort declared bankruptcy.

But after passing through a handful of ownerships and managers, the resort continued improving, adding sister resort Silver Creek in 1990.

In 1996, a Canadian firm called Intrawest bought the resort and invested more than \$70 million in the form of new high speed detachable lifts, new slopes and snowmaking, new mountain home complexes and a mountaintop village including retail shops and restaurants. Intrawest owns numerous resorts throughout North America.

Snowshoe Mountain offers 56 slopes and trails and plenty of chair lifts to reach them. Timberline opened in Tucker County in 1983 with four slopes. By the '90s, Timberline had added double and triple chair lifts, a rope tow, lift service all the way to the top of the mountain, new trails and a new restaurant and pub. It is owned by a group of Philadelphia investors who purchased the resort in 1985. It currently offers 35 slopes and trails and lots of nearby lodging.

Winterplace, located between Beckley and Princeton at Chenet, also opened in

the last 25 years. For all the parks, the 1990s marked the recognition of a fast-growing alternative snow sports market. Resorts added special facilities for snowboarders and snow tubers.

Elk River, near Snowshoe and White Grass, near Canaan Valley and Timberline, each offers 75 kilometers of cross-country skiing trials have continued to welcome an increasing number of cross-country skiers and snowshoers over the last 25 years.

SKI

CONTINUED FROM 4

for the general public to use — not until 1971. It was then that Canaan Valley Resort opened its hillside to skiers. In 1974, Snowshoe opened with nine slopes and three chair lifts. By the 1979-80 ski season, Snowshoe had one additional lift and a total of 20 trails. Both areas built and eventually expanded lodging facilities.

"The 1980s was a pivotal decade for the ski industry in West Virginia," an article in the tourism division's West Virginia Outdoors magazine says. "In the early 1980s, downhill ski resorts Silver Creek, Timberline and Winterplace opened, and cross-country specialists Elk River and White Grass opened. Snowshoe and Canaan Valley expanded with trails, slopes and lifts."

During the '80s, Snowshoe in Pocahontas County experienced growth along with financial problems. Rapid expansion — 250 condominiums in two years — resulted in operational problems that sent the resort's promising future to only

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Saturday, November 9, 1983

Rampaging Greenbrier Takes Toll



Rising waters approach the bottom of the old bridge in



A gloomy sky illuminates the flood damage in Ron-

yards from its foundation to rest against a light pole. On

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power and telephone service restored and the pumping station once again supplying that vital commodity to the town's citizens.

backed up Howard's creek, sending swampish water into most of the community, washing one home near the creek away entirely, and damaging almost every home on the south side of Route 60.

Further investigation, the cause of destruction continued, all homes between Alderson and Pence Springs were either badly damaged or washed away entirely. At present, no accurate estimate of the time, or cost, can be available.

Pocahontas, Greenbrier Summers are among the counties Governor Moore has asked the federal government to declare a disaster.

Alderson was hit with flood waters 11 feet above flood stage, causing substantial damage to homes and businesses along state Route 63. Power remained available to Alderson's residents, although the water supply was contaminated and residents were advised to boil their water for at least ten minutes before using it for drinking or cooking.

Many Valley residents have said that this flood was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. They also said that once is once more than enough.

[illegible]

Persons considering going into a small business or who are encountering problems in an existing business can receive guidance on Tuesday, November 12 - Job Service Office - 209 W. Main Street, Monacaerte, WV 24970. Individual client conferences will be conducted from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

behavior had originally agreed to give a benefit organ and piano concert for Carnegie Hall's Restoration Fund." However, the Goddard said. "However, their immediate needs of our neighbors, who have suffered greatly by the recent floods, are much greater right now than the needs of the Hall."

"Mr. Fearnley and Mrs. Thayer immediately agreed to contribute their talents to the relief work," Goddard said today. Carnegie Hall has a seating

All proceeds from Carnegie Hall's Sunday, November 10th, concert will be applied to direct flood relief in Greenbrier, Pocahontas, Summers and Monroe Counties, according to the Hall's Managing Director Charles A. Goddard.

Each applicant must have an operating business and show financial stability, good moral character and have no felony record. The Lottery Commission in-

West Virginians wanting to become licensed agents to sell lottery tickets will receive word regarding their applications by late November, Ralph Peters, Director of the West Virginia Lottery said today.

Peters added that the toll-free commission has set up a special toll-free number to assist potential franchisees with questions or problems they may have regarding their application. The toll-free number is 1-800-367-6144. *By A. Scott*

**Turkey,
Ham Dinner**

②The Fairlea A.R.P. Church will hold a turkey and ham dinner on November 9 from 4 to 7 p.m. The charge will be 15¢ for adults and 10¢ for children under 12.

capacity of 579 persons. Tickets for the 3 p.m. concert are priced at \$5 per person and will be available at the door Sunday. "We suggest that persons wishing to help the direct flood relief effort to get to the Hall early to be assured of a seat," Goddard added.

percent of a firm's stock from its fingerprinted

"I can't stress enough the importance of reading the application forms carefully," said Peters. "If potential agents fail to answer every question, it will delay the processing of their license."

"For instance, every applicant must submit his business tax num-

Peters added that the lottery commission has set up a special hotline number to assist potential agents with questions or problems they may have regarding their application. The toll-free number is 1-800-367-6174. FAX 512-331-1000. ext. 3074.

Turkey, Ham Dinner

©The Fairlea A.R.P. Church will hold a turkey and ham dinner on November 9 from 4 to 7 p.m. The charge will be 15¢ for adults and 10¢ for children under 12.



Elwood Alderson, W.V., as group leader

the Federal Emergency Management Agency officials were afraid to help these nine farmers, and Moore said their reports "didn't justify his request to President Reagan for federal disaster aid in 23 counties."

Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D-W. Va.) who met Moore on his visit to Clarkburg, said the state's chances of removing the federal aid took good

The 16 confirmed deaths were reported to have resulted from a flu pandemic that is presumed to have begun in Turkey and spread and then in Great Britain and Portugal. Few states had been notified.

Flooded Alderson, W. Va., in 1911.

from the six-
month Dispatch/Le Monde
joint survey of the federal and local

From 1980 to 1984, the number of people in the United States who had been diagnosed with AIDS rose from 1,000 to 10,000.

Victims will live with flood long after waters are gone

By DAVE PEYTON

From 2,000 feet up, the Green Valley is still beautiful. The trees are off the trees and the cool weather has produced an abundant crop of bright green grass. Here and there, pine forests dot the landscape. The farmhouses on the rolling hills stand proud and white against the gray and green background provided by the hills.

Staff writer Dave Peyton and chief photographer Lee Bernard flew from Huntington to Greenbrier Airport at Lewisburg, W.Va., yesterday for an aerial view of the devastated flood area between Lewisburg and Hinton. In the following report, Peyton records his impressions of the Greenbrier Valley.

so that residents could return to make the first tentative steps at cleaning up. Multi-colored carpets, wet with water, covered lawns. Towels, sheets and other linens were draped over shrubbery to dry. But the cold, humid wind that blew through the cloud-covered valley gave little hope that anything would

In one area just upstream from Ponca Springs, it appeared an entire neighborhood of a half dozen houses or more had been swept away by the wulfer. All that was left were foundations. A lone pickup truck sat in a driveway near one of the foundations. Its occupants — a man and a woman — appeared to be standing aimlessly around the house.

Homes that had been built very close to the river, to take advantage of the ordinarily spectacular view, were damaged the most. The decks that many had built over the river

Below that area swept clean by the flood, the remnants of a bridge remained. Area residents said that

A day to

by TIM R. MASSEY

Democrat Robert R. Nelson found himself in unfamiliar pinstripes yesterday inside a "jail" at Old National Bank just 12 hours after being soaked in victory as Huntington's first strong mayor under a new charter.

Just a few hundred feet away at a cramped 3th Avenue headquarters, Republican Ted T. Barr was separating work clothes as he began moving the remnants of his first successful political campaign. The difference in winning and los-

people	B2
ports	D1-D4
style	C1-C4
elevation	C4
West Virginia today	D5
World today	C7

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A Denver Newspaper

box up and be locked up

Partly because of the extended stay inside the "big house," Nelson postponed a planned press conference until today. At that time, he is expected to name members of his transition team, who will act as advisors during an interim period before he takes office.

interim government in the strong mayor as smooth as possible." Nelson said, "I also want to get some input from Steve on the department heads. Also, I'd like to see if I can't get some working space for the transition team."

The mayor-elect also said he planned to talk yesterday with Interim Chief Executive Officer Steve Williams.

"You ask the people to vote for me to nights and lows in his life. you, and they can either say yes or no," he said. "I guess it comes from my Marine Corps training, but I try

(See ► DAY, Page A2)

(See  DAY, Page A2)

Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted

Matt 5:4

Mountain Messenger

Sunday

November 10, 1985

Published in Ronceverte, WV

Flood aftermath: Area digs out of the mess

By CHERYL GRIFFITH

As the sun rises over the town of Ronceverte, West Virginia, the scene is one of devastation. The streets are filled with debris, and the air is thick with the smell of flood water. The town, which was once a thriving community, is now a ghost town. The flood water has destroyed everything in its path, leaving a trail of destruction behind it.

The flood water has been a nightmare for the people of Ronceverte. They have lost everything they own, and they are now left with nothing. The flood water has been a curse on the town, and the people are now suffering from the aftermath. They are trying to dig out of the mess, but it is a long and difficult process. The flood water has been a disaster for the town, and the people are now trying to rebuild their lives.

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Home not only suffered the damage to the house but the loss of some of his furniture as well. He had a ready-made some furniture in the house before the flood waters emerged.

Flood damage in Ronceverte was extensive but no lives were lost. Water reached Main Street of Ronceverte and devastated homes of around to businesses and homes in the Monroe Avenue and River Oaks area.

Homes were knocked off their foundations, and Island Park was virtually destroyed. The Ronceverte High School was also damaged. Power lines were downed, and a power outage hit all of Ronceverte. The area around the school was also affected. The flood water has been a disaster for the town, and the people are now trying to rebuild their lives.

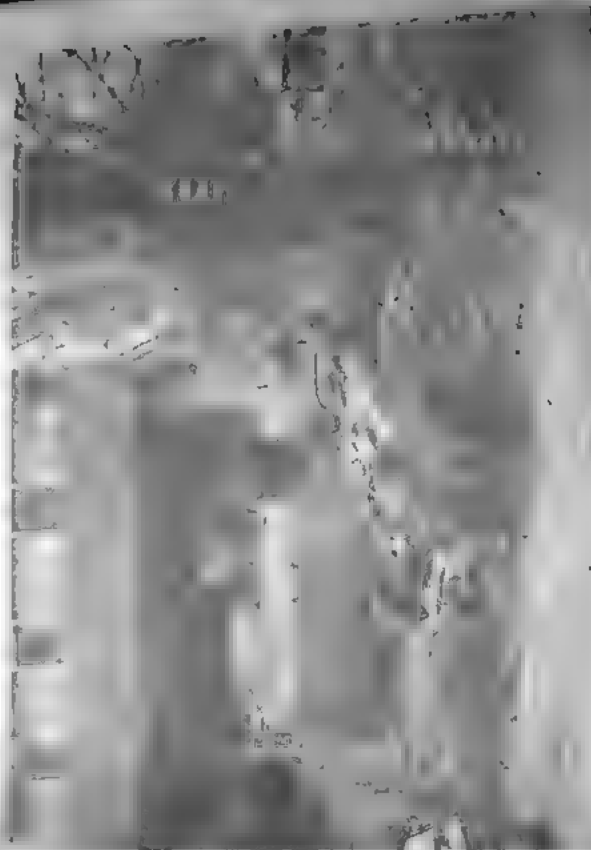
Residents of Route 60 south of Caldwell were evacuated safely Tuesday as the swollen Greenbrier backed its way into Greenbrier Creek.

Some 100-150 inmates at the Federal Correctional Institute in Alderson after the Greenbrier crested to 24.5 feet at 1 p.m. on Tuesday. The flood stage there is 14 feet. The 1918 flood had crested to 22 feet.

Water left its mark on many homes in the town knocking homes off their foundations, turning cars over and sending homes and trailers down the river never to be seen again.

Streets in and around Alderson were blanketed by water including portions of WV Route 3, 42 and 63. For the first time in 100 years, a person fighting flood waters

The power of the flood waters was evidenced by the fate of this car in Alderson





Edgar Avenue in Ronceverte before the waters created



Contents of Red Nickolls' grocery store in Alderson lay strewn on the floor
rise over the store steps

Briefly...

Lewisburg council meeting date changed

The regular November meeting of the Lewisburg City Council has been rescheduled from Tuesday to the second Tuesday of the month, December 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the councilroom of City Hall. The public is welcome to attend.

Green Mt. and Old White Garden Clubs to meet

The Green Mt. Garden Club and the Old White Garden Club of Lewisburg will offer a joint gathering of members Wednesday evening, November 11, 7:30 p.m. in the Community House. The evening program features a series of sessions of the two clubs. The Green Mt. Garden Club will be held starting at 7:50 p.m. with a presentation of the Old White Garden Club. The Old White Garden Club will be held starting at 8:15 p.m. with a presentation of the Green Mt. Garden Club. The evening program is free and open to all. For more information, contact the Green Mt. Garden Club at 1-800-333-3333 or the Old White Garden Club at 1-800-333-3333.

Lewisburg BPW Club to meet

The Lewisburg Business and Professional Women's Club will hold its regular meeting at First Stannard Inn in Lewisburg on Wednesday, November 11, 7:30 p.m.

The meeting is open to all women who are interested in the club. The club is a non-profit organization that provides a forum for women to discuss business and professional issues. The club also provides a variety of services to its members, including a newsletter, a directory, and a variety of social events. For more information, contact the club at 1-800-333-3333.

The Lewisburg Foundation holds meeting

The Lewisburg Foundation will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, November 10, 7:30 p.m. in the Old Stannard Inn. The meeting is open to all members of the foundation. The foundation is a non-profit organization that provides a variety of services to the community, including a scholarship fund, a library, and a variety of social events. For more information, contact the foundation at 1-800-333-3333.

Luncheon benefits Greenbrier Library

The Annual Luncheon will be held at the Greenbrier Hotel in Lewisburg on Friday, November 13, 12:30 p.m. The luncheon is a benefit for the Greenbrier Library. The cost of the luncheon is \$3.50. The luncheon is open to all. For more information, contact the library at 1-800-333-3333.

Lewisburg plans Christmas parade

The Historic Lewisburg Association is planning a Christmas parade in Lewisburg on Friday, December 6, 6:00 p.m. The parade will start at the Greenbrier Hotel and will proceed down Washington Street to the Greenbrier Hotel. The parade is open to all. For more information, contact the association at 1-800-333-3333.

Bowhunters' Association organizes

There will be an organized meeting of the Greenbrier Valley Bowhunters Association on Sunday, November 15, at 8:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Greenbrier Hotel. The meeting is open to all. For more information, contact the association at 1-800-333-3333.

Help available for small businesses

Persons considering starting a small business or who are already in business may be eligible for a loan from the Small Business Administration. The loan is a 501(c)(3) loan. The loan is open to all. For more information, contact the Small Business Administration at 1-800-333-3333.



Ronceverte resident Ethel Price gets attention from volunteer nurses at the temporary Emergency Services Center at Greenbrier East

21 counties to get federal assistance in flood aftermath

By John Raby
THE OMAHA BEAVER

President Carter gave federal disaster status to 21 West Virginia counties Thursday making the declaration for a variety of government assistance.

The declaration was made as the Ohio River crept over its banks for the second time in a week and just hours after Gov. Gaston Caperton sent a formal request to the president.

Floods since Jan. 19 have damaged about 6,200 homes and caused \$25 million in damage to public facilities, such as roads, bridges, public buildings and water and sewer systems, according to estimates from state and federal damage assessment teams.

The help includes temporary housing grants, low interest loans to cover uninsured private and business property losses, and other flood programs to help individuals and families.

James Watt, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, told Caperton that thorough information provided with West Vir-

- Farm losses, 2A
- Flood victims, 2A
- Senate flood relief, 2A

gina's request enabled federal officials to respond quickly.

"The quick turnaround on our response is indicative of the concern President Carter and FEMA have for our need for federal assistance," Caperton said.

Counties included in the declaration are Brooke, Grant, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hancock, Hardy, Harrison, Mason, Monroe, Ohio, Putnam, Pleasants, Pocahontas, Preston, Randolph, Summers, Tucker, Tyler, Webster, Wetzell and Wood.

Federal funding is available to reimburse 75 percent of the repair or replacement costs of damaged roads, bridges, public buildings, and water and sewer systems in the affected counties, except for Hampshire, Mason and Wood, Watt said.

Funding also will be provided for approved projects designed to mitigate future disaster risks in all 21

See DISASTER, 9A

Help arrives from churches, prison

By Dawn Miller
STAFF WRITER

ALICE BECKIN — Two inmates freed from the Women's Federal Correctional Institute sought out the home of their current national officer on Thursday to help her clean up mud and debris left by the Greenbrier River in Saturday.

"It is hard work, but people should pull together," said Helen Hall, an inmate who spent eight hours helping correctional officer Carolyn Mullins carry debris.

Beckin and her partner Christy were among 20 inmates who volunteered to help Alderson residents clean up. Mullins, Beckin said,

"She is very fair and very professional. Deborah said of the parole officer."

"We wouldn't be here helping her if she weren't," Beckin added.

The two women would only identify themselves by their first names: Church members, college students and residents from nearby Monroe County also came to move debris, wash dishes and disinfest their homes.

"I could have been a nurse," said Judy Lapp, a Camp Mills resident who, with a group of Missouri women and women scrubbed and bleached the basement of Virginia Martin.

"It's different than other clean-

ing," said Dolene Yoder. "You see something get done."

Montgomery women and those from the prison went door to door on Thursday, boats and skiffs mud did offering their help.

"You can't do without it," said Roy Grimes.

He received women inmates to his backyard where they piled timbers and boards from a pile so loaded off a National Guard truck. The debris used to be a well on top of another house more than a block away.

He had stored some tools and other valuables on the roof of a shed shelter inside his garage. "The water got it anyway,"

From left, Bridget Agapito, Dawn White, Meredith Hardin and Damaris Malave help clear the backyard of Alderson resident Roy Grimes on Thursday. The women,

on furlough from the Women's Federal Correctional Institute, said they expected the work to go on for about two weeks.

Grimes said Or higher ground women in the basement of the Old Greenbrier Baptist Church happily chopped watermelon and other fruits for supper.

The church has been feeding as many as 50 for breakfast, 30 for lunch and 15 for supper daily. "I have not paid one penny for this food," said the Rev. Elmer Curtis, gesturing to the well-stocked makeshift pantry.

Kroger donated 250 gallons of milk and racks of fresh bread. Sunday donated 75 sandwiches, one

See ALDERSON, 9A



Glenna Yoder (left), Doris Schwartz and Judy Lapp help clean the basement of Virginia Martin in Alderson.



Flood Devastates Greenbrier Valley

By Tina Alvey

Thirty inches of fresh snow blanketed the ground by nightfall on Sunday, January 21.

Twelve additional inches of snow falls four days later amid temperatures well below freezing meant the winter would be a thing can melt in the interim between major snowstorms.

With 42 inches of snow on the ground in Greenbrier County and significant more in the mountains to the north, local emergency workers feverishly hope for a slow steady melt over the course of several days.

Instead, an unreasonable warm spell coupled with a night of rain dislodged the mass of snow, funneling the moisture into streams and rivers and unleashing the inevitable floodwaters on the valley's communities.

The Greenbrier River crested in Marlinton at 3 p.m. on Friday, January 19, at 207, more than a foot higher than the crest reported during the flood of 1985.

More than 13 hours after the river crested in Alderson at 257, slightly higher than the '85 crest.

Partially to the flood of '85 are inevitable claiming millions of dollars in property damage and 47 deaths, the '85 flood was what is termed the "100-year flood" — meaning a flood of that

magnitude should occur only once every century.

Barley ten years later, however, Greenbrier Valley residents are themselves digging mud out of their homes and businesses once more, tallying the losses and making an increasingly tough decision on whether to rebuild yet again or simply abandon property the river seems determined to claim.

A woman in Potomac County put it best when she said, "At first I was relieved that was one ugly season to take as much of people's possessions as the '85 flood did. But now I'm just angry. Why wasn't something done after that flood to prevent this from happening again? Why weren't we protected from having to go through this again?"

According to figures compiled by the Greenbrier County Office of Emergency Services, the property losses this year could be at least as high as they were in 1985.

Those estimates show Ronceverte and Alderson suffering the highest number of businesses with water damage, while many communities, including those two, saw the water sweep through a substantial number of homes.

Ronceverte's estimated total of 52 businesses and 152 homes in the watershed.

In Alderson, 30 businesses, 250 houses and one church were damaged to some extent. At least 80 Alderson residents were evacuated to shelters while many others stayed with relatives or friends.

Four Claywell businesses were damaged in the flood, as well as 65 houses and one church.

In Rupert, the toll was even higher, with 122 houses and one church that community, some 41 people were evacuated to shelters.

One business in Rainelle reported water damage, but data from the Lilly Park subdivision was unavailable to OES staff at this time, according to Rudy Holbrook, the executive director of the Greenbrier County agency. He said the Lilly Park area contains numerous houses, and he is certain there was flood damage in that section of the town.

Holbrook said no information on damages could yet be available from the Renick area.

Holbrook was reluctant to put a dollar value on the damage, saying he would now pass the information along to the state OES in Charleston where

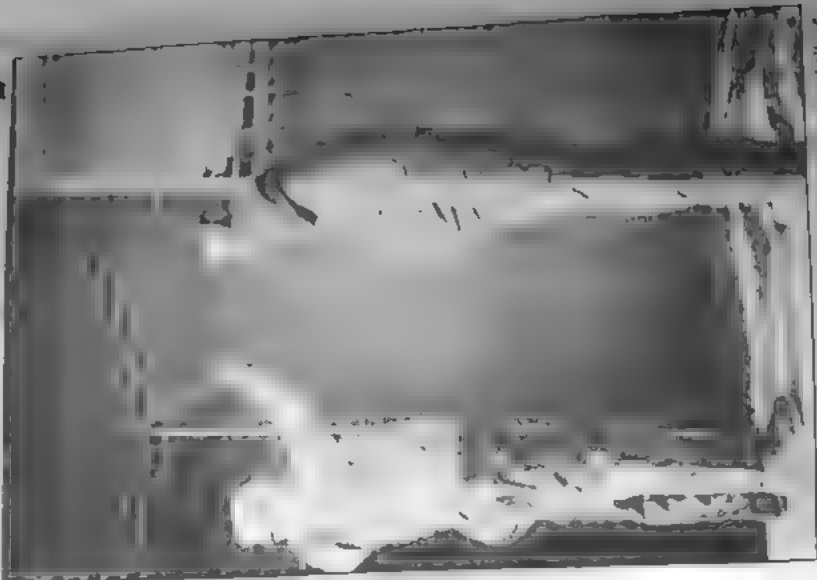
"They were a pretty figure on it."

Rather than sit back and wait for the government to figure out the rebuilding of all the roads with insurance, Holbrook took the initiative and the first time at the end of the flood.

People with insurance should get their insurance companies in board as early as possible. Holbrook said this haste is necessary because of the magnitude of the flooding along the Ohio River, he explained.

I believe the state may have to divert the National Guard to the Ohio River area. Holbrook warned. "That

Continued on Page 3



Ronceverte City Council member Tom Morgan and Chief of Police Bill Rose measure the high water mark on the front of Ronceverte's City Hall at 82 inches. All the front windows and doors were broken, and venetian blinds and assorted paper pokes through the broken window of C. Browning photo.

Aftermath Of Flood Tragic

By A. J. ...
The aftermath of the flood in the Greenbrier River valley is a scene of tragedy and despair. The water has receded, but the damage is done. The houses are ruined, the fields are washed away, and the people are left with nothing. The flood has taken a heavy toll on the community, and the recovery will be a long and difficult process.

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A gloomy sky illuminates the flood damage in Ron-certe yesterday as rising Greenbrier River waters washed a small building 50 yards from its foundation to rest against a light pole. On the right is Appalachian Electronics, which received heavy flood damage.

In Caldwell, rising flood waters filled this one-story house in a field across Route 60 from the restaurant at the stockyard

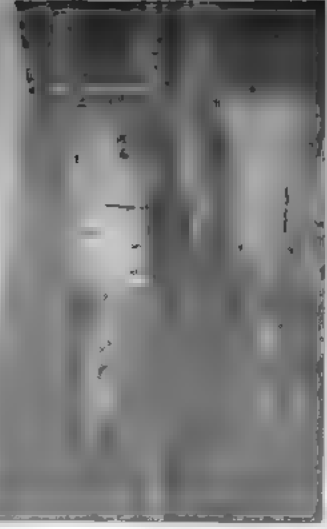
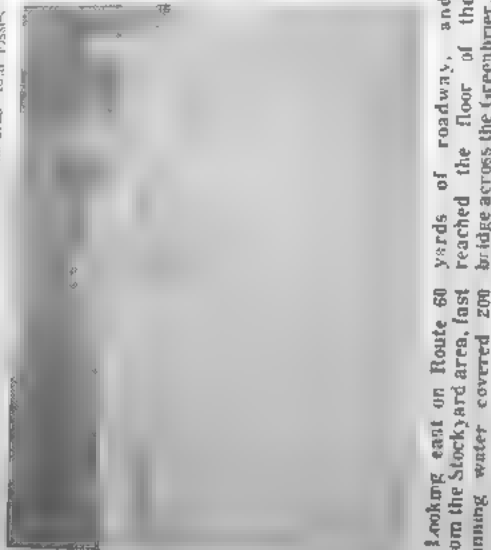
Looking east on Route 60 yards of roadway, and from the Stockyard area, fast running water covered 200 bridge across the Greenbrier.

Accidents Reported

By NANCY ...
The following accidents were recently investigated by the Greenbrier County Sheriff's Department:
A Pemberton, W.V. man escaped injury when the vehicle he was driving collided with a tree Friday.

Cloudy

Partly cloudy today, with highs in the low to mid 50s. Mostly clear tonight with lows in the mid 30s. Increasing cloudiness Thursday with highs in the mid 50s. Probability of precipitation is near zero today and tonight.





THE West Virginia Daily News

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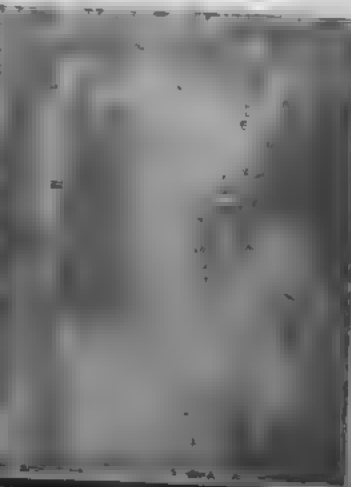
Vol 91 No 216

Wednesday November 6, 1936

Aftermath Of Flood Tragic

Rebuilding, among the first things to be done in the wake of the flood, is the reconstruction of the destroyed buildings. The first step is to clear away the debris and the second is to erect the new structures. The third step is to reconstruct the destroyed buildings. The first step is to clear away the debris and the second is to erect the new structures. The third step is to reconstruct the destroyed buildings.

The flood has caused a great deal of damage to the property of the people living in the flooded area. The first step is to clear away the debris and the second is to erect the new structures. The third step is to reconstruct the destroyed buildings. The first step is to clear away the debris and the second is to erect the new structures. The third step is to reconstruct the destroyed buildings.



A gloomy sky illuminates the flood damage in Ron Covey yesterday as rising Greenbrier River waters washed a small building 50 yards from its foundation to rest against a light pole. On the right is Appalachian Electronics, which received heavy flood damage.

In Caldwell, rising flood waters filled this one-story house in a field across Route 50 from the restaurant at the street yard.



Looking east on Route 80 yards of roadway and from the stockyard area, east, is a hole the floor of the running water covered 200 bridge across the Greenbrier.



The Greenbrier River was still rising in Caldwell at 3 p.m. on Tuesday and here was no business at the Ashland Station on its way to the pumps, going to the pumps.

Accidents Reported

The following accidents were reported from the Greenbrier River area. The first accident was a car accident on Route 50. The second accident was a car accident on Route 50. The third accident was a car accident on Route 50.

Cloudy

Partly cloudy today with high in the low 50s and low in the mid 30s. Increasing clouds Thursday with high in the mid 50s and low in the mid 30s. Precipitation in the form of rain or snow near zero odds and tonight.

Obituary

Obituary notice for a person who passed away. The person was born on a certain date and died on a certain date. They were a member of a certain church and had a certain family.



THE West Virginia Daily News

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RONCEVERTE

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RAINFLE
MARLINTON

RUPERT
CHARMCO

FAIRLEA
WILLIAMSBURG

UNION
ALDERSON

20 Cents (USPS-768-060)

Vol. 91 No. 217

Tuesday, November 5, 1985

Greenbrier Rampages; Caldwell, Other Areas Evacuated

More hard rains than the ground could absorb have caused extensive flooding along the Greenbrier and its tributaries. A late-morning report said that the Anthony bridge broke away from the banks of the Greenbrier and is "floating downstream in one piece", threatening the bridges at Caldwell and Ronceverte.

The rising waters of the Greenbrier have isolated Marlinton, where residents have been evacuated. The town is without electricity or phone service, according to reports at presstime.

A spokesman in Alderson said this morning that any residents who live near the Greenbrier River should "get out - NOW!" - and save their lives rather than worry about their property.

Ronceverte's water supply has been contaminated by the flood waters and residents are advised to seek drinking water elsewhere.

The 219 bridge across the Greenbrier at Ronceverte has been closed to traffic, and late reports indicated that the Route 60 bridge at Caldwell would crest.

Officials said that any residents who live close to the river should evacuate to higher ground until after the river has crested and it is safe to return to their homes.



The rising waters of the Greenbrier River, a result of days of rain, entered Appalachian Electronics and other businesses and homes along Monroe Avenue in Ronceverte.



Island Park in Ronceverte is completely covered by muddy flood waters. It was the Greenbrier would crest, or at what level.

Burdette's Restaurant at Port Spring, usually threatened when the Greenbrier is in flood, suffered water damage today.



Rising waters approach the bottom of the old bridge in Alderson.



Two rescue workers survey damage in the Ronceverte bridge area this morning.

AREA OBITUARIES

DOWDY

Mrs. Marie Webb Dowdy, 72, of Glace, died Monday, November 4, at home following a short illness.

Born July 15, 1913, at Glace, she was a daughter of the late H.P. and Carrie R. McGroarty Webb.

Mrs. Dowdy was a member of the Presbyterian Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Eugene Kelly Dowdy.

Survivors include a son, Gary K. Dowdy, at home; three daughters, Carrie Hoke of Kates Mountain,

Josephine Morgan of Pierport and Peggy Gilbert of Wileman, Ohio; a brother, H.P. Webb Jr. of White Sulphur Springs; eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be Thursday at 2 p.m. in the Glace Chapel with the Rev. Stuart McMurray officiating.

Burial will be in the Dowdy Cemetery at Glace.

Friends may call Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Shanklin

Rucker, Kathleen Ramsey and Nellie Boggs, all of White Sulphur Springs; seven grandchildren, eight great grandchildren and a great great granddaughter.

Services will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. at the Alvon United Methodist Church with the Rev. Lowell O'Dell officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

Friends may call today from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Shanklin Funeral Home in White Sulphur Springs and at the church one hour prior to the service.

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Light Rain

Lingering light rain and drizzle, possibly mixed with snow. Highs around 40. Rain likely tonight, changing to light snow. Lows in the mid 30s. Mostly cloudy Wednesday with highs around 50.

Second Section

The Pocahontas Times

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NOVEMBER 4, 2004 VOL 122 NO 22

Second Section

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Unearthing frontier history in Green Bank

Drew Tanner
Staff Writer

In a field in Green Bank, 250 year-old fragments of history were uncovered this weekend.

A small team of archeologists led by Kim and Steven McBride, of the Kentucky Archeological Survey, scoured the former site of Warwick Fort, at the home of Bob Sheets and his family in Green Bank, Saturday and Sunday.

The fort was named for John Warwick, whom Sheets said was his own great-great-great-great grandfather, and whose 18th century log cabin was originally near the site.

Situated near the confluence of Deer Creek and the North Fork of Deer Creek, the fort was likely established to protect the growing population of white settlers in Green Bank from Native American raids, according to Kim, who is co-director of the Kentucky Archeological Survey.

"The forts were primarily used as a place of refuge for the settlers," Kim continued.

During most of the time since the Revolutionary War, the property has been in the Warwick-Sheets family.

The McBrides visit to the site came as a follow-up to their 1990 survey of approximately 40 similar fort sites in the Greenbrier Valley.



charged lead musketball, a cow bell, a jaw harp, a fragment from a knife blade, fragments of cast-iron kettles and other metal fragments thought to be from metal straps or utensils.

"The hand-wrought nails are the single most common artifacts we find on these fort sites," Kim said.

Digging for metal colonial relics, the team also discovered items that pre-dated the fort, possibly by more than 800 years: stone projectile points, fragments of earthen pottery and darkened areas of soil containing bits of charcoal, indicating a possible Native American hearth site.

"Being a pre-historic site certainly makes it more interesting," Kim said, "but it also makes it more difficult to find the fort."

On Sunday, some of the site's more interesting features were excavated and sited in search of more clues to the fort's history and occupants.

One such feature yielded still more shards of Native American pottery.

The McBrides will take the artifacts to Kentucky to be cleaned, analyzed and catalogued, according to Kim. Once that process is complete, what to do with the artifacts will be left to Sheets' discretion, she continued.

Sheets said he would like to see the artifacts in his

County

Before coming back to the site, the couple spent time poring over historic documents concerning the fort.

"We were searching through the applications of the Revolutionary War vets who were applying for pensions, and you get a sense of which forts they refer to more," Kim explained.

Warwick Fort was mentioned more than most, Kim continued.

"We initially thought some of these references were to the Clover Lick Fort... which also has a Warwick family connection," Kim explained, "but subsequent research has suggested... that when they say Warwick, they mean here."

Records show the fort was constructed by 16 of Captain George Moffet's company from Augusta County, Virginia.

According to records found by Steven, each man was paid 15 pounds for six days of work on the fort.

One of those 16 was Joseph Wadell, who had many descendants in Pocahontas County, according to Steven, staff archaeologist for the Kentucky Archeological Survey.

One of those descendants was local historian James Woodell, who brought the McBrides to the site in 1990.

Based on his research of the site, Steven estimated the fort was constructed around June, 1774, just as white settlements in the Deer Creek Valley were beginning to take hold.

"The main force, really, on the frontier were the militia," Steven continued.

"When Moffet's company came and built this, there were probably around 50 or so [men]," explained Steven. "And then George Matthews company came. He had a smaller company, maybe about 30 or so."

When Matthews' company left for the battle of Point Pleasant in 1774, continued Steven, 16 men were left to guard the fort under William Kennerly.

At any given time, about 25

MARTIN LOCKMAN PEERS into a trench dug by archeologists to gain a window back in time through the soil strata. The lighter, yellow clay subsoil made it easier for the team to identify historic features in the soil, identified by the red and orange flags. Photos by D. Tanner

men, or a sergeant's command, might be stationed at the fort, Steven added.

Because of previous raids by Native Americans that hindered settlement in the 1750s and 1760s, white settlers in the area kept on their guard.

"They'd send out people they called Indian spies, what we'd call scouts now," Steven explained. "They'd watch all the paths to see if Indians were around. If they were, [the scouts] would send an alarm and the settlers would then leave their cabins and come into the fort. So in times of alarm, you could have had quite a few settlers in here besides militia... 50 to 100 or so. It could have been kind of crowded."

During years when there was heavy Native American traffic through the area, the settlers might stay at the fort for most of the summer, Steven added.

In such times, large groups of settlers might go out from the fort, under the guard of the militia, to work each other's farms, Kim added.

"There was a fairly sizable raid in 1780," Steven noted. "[Native Americans] attacked the Dreannan settlement in Edray. Militia were actually sent out of here to go down there and try to intercept the Native Americans."

"It was part of the Revolutionary period, but it was also part of the whole westward expansion," Kim observed.

Today, the fort's presence is all but indiscernible in Bob Sheet's field, and the only raids Green Bank residents encounter come in the form of busloads of tourists bound for the National Radio Astronomy Observatory.

"One of the things we're interested in today is the real shape of [the fort]," Kim added, "because the records don't say that."

Based on the design of other forts the McBrides have researched in the Greenbrier Valley, Steven said the fort was

likely to have been a diamond-shaped structure, with sides 110' long and guarded by two bastions at opposite corners."

On Saturday, the team, joined by the Sheets family, spent most of the day combing the site with metal detectors. Each time the metal detector beeped, a small orange flag was put in place to mark the spot and the hits were carefully excavated with shovels and trowels.

During their 1990 survey of the site, Kim said they found a lead musketball, some hand-wrought nails and a pipe stem.

By late Saturday afternoon, more than 100 of the little orange flags dotted the site. The artifacts unearthed included more hand-wrought nails, a dis-



THREE ORANGE FLAGS (top) mark metal detector hits on the former site of Warwick Fort in Green Bank. More than 100 flags marked the historic site by the end of Saturday afternoon. Excavation of a hit might yield centuries-old relics, such as a hand-wrought nail (middle left), a musket ball (middle right), a fragment from a cast-iron kettle (bottom left), or a shard of Native American pottery (bottom right). The team from the Kentucky Archeological Survey will clean, analyze and catalog each of the objects found on the site with the hope of gaining insight into the colonial fort and its inhabitants. Photos by D. Tanner

